



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Is the application of:

Manfred DOMBEK

Appl. No.: 09/773,490

Confirmation No.: 6657

Filed: February 2, 2001

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR MAKING AND
PROCESSING ROD-SHAPED
ARTICLES

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Carlos N. Lopez

Atty. Docket No.: 31512-168231

Customer No.:



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AMENDMENT AND REPLY

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop - Amendments
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated May 21, 2003, Applicant submits the following
Amendment and Reply.

A two month extension of time is hereby petitioned. A check in the amount of
\$410.00 is enclosed. However, if no check is attached or if the Patent Office deems that any
additional fees are necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any required fees
Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

08/05/2003 KBUTLER 00000001 220261 09773490

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| 01 FC:1252 | 410.00 DA |
| 02 FC:1202 | 36.00 DA |
| 03 FC:1201 | 168.00 DA |

Conclusion

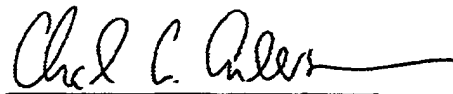
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 12-15, 17-22 and 25-32 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 07/21/03



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